

CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

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- 1) A system for providing a private communication portal for a user comprising:
 - a) a first computer comprising a communication facility wherein said first computer is associated with a network of computers; and
 - b) second computer comprising a locating facility for locating said first computer

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wherein said locating facility is responsive to a third computer for locating said first computer for communication between said first and third computers; and wherein said private communication portal provides a private server at said first computer.

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- 2) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first computer further comprises a database and said system provides means for remotely accessing said database.

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- 3) A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein said communication facility further provides means for setting the communication settings of said communication facility, and said system provides means for setting said communication settings remotely.

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- 4) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said locating facility comprises means for making the current location of the first computer known to the second computer.

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- 5) A system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said locating facility comprises:

- a) means for communicating the current location of the first computer provided by said communication facility; and

b) means responsive to said means for communicating the current location of the first computer provided by said second computer.

5 6) A system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said second computer further comprises a dynamic location directory associated with said locating facility, wherein said dynamic location directory provides means for providing the location of said first computer on said network and means for updating said location to provide the current location of said first computer on said network.

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7) A system as claimed in claim 6, wherein said locating facility updates said current location periodically.

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8) A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein said system further comprises a security facility for restricting access to said communication facility to said user only.

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9) A system as claimed claim 8, wherein said communication facility further comprises a communication interface for sending and receiving data communications.

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10) A system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said communication facility interfaces with data generating facilities to provide said remote access to said database.

11) A system as claimed in claim 10, wherein said communication facility further comprises a unified messaging facility for processing and managing messages in co-operation with said communication interface.

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12) A system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said communication facility further comprises a contact information facility.

13) A system as claimed in claim 12, wherein said communication facility further comprises a remote message management facility.

14) A system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said remote message management facility provides means for reading, replying and managing said messages remotely.

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15) A system as claimed in claim 14, wherein said remote message management facility is provided by said unified messaging facility and contact information facility in co-operation.

10 16) A system as claimed in claim 15, wherein said messages comprise e-mails, facsimiles or voice mails.

17) A system as claimed in claim 16, wherein said unified messaging facility comprises an e-mail message facility.

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18) A system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said unified messaging facility further comprises a fax message management facility.

19) A system as claimed in claim 18, wherein said unified messaging facility further comprises a voice message facility.

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20) A system for providing a private communication portal for a user comprising:

a) a first computer associated with a network of computers comprising:

i) a microprocessor;

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ii) communication interface; and

iii) computer program operably associated with said microprocessor, said computer program comprising:

(1) a communication facility;

(2) means for communicating the current location of said first computer in association with said communication interface;

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b) second server computer associated with said network comprising:

i) a microprocessor;

ii) communication interface; and

iii) locating facility associated with said communication interface and microprocessor for locating said first computer on said network, said locating facility being responsive to said means for communicating the current location of said first computer server;

wherein said locating facility is responsive to a third computer for locating said first computer and said second server computer facilitates a communication session between said communication facility of said located first computer and third computer;

and wherein said private communication portal provides a private server at said first computer.

21) A system as claimed in claim 20, wherein said private server further comprises a database, and said system provides means for accessing said database remotely.

22) A system as claimed in claim 21, wherein said communication facility provides means for setting communication settings for said communication facility, and said system provides means for setting said communication settings remotely.

23) A system as claimed in claim 22, wherein said second server computer further comprises a dynamic location directory associating with said locating facility, wherein said dynamic location directory provides means for providing the location of said private server on said network and means for updating said location to provide the current location of said private server on said network.

24) A computer product for providing a private messaging portal at a first computer comprising a microprocessor and communication interface, wherein said first computer is connected to a network of computers, said computer product comprising:

a) a communication facility;

b) means for communicating the location of said first computer on said network to a second computer connected to said network, in co-operation with said communication interface;

wherein said communication facility is responsive to said second computer for establishing a communication session with a third computer once said location of said first computer is provided to said second computer;

and wherein said private communication portal provides a private server at said first computer.

25) A computer product for use in association with a server computer for facilitating a private messaging portal dedicated to a remote computer, wherein said server computer and remote computer are connected to a network of computers, said computer product comprising:

a) a communication interface;

b) authorization facility;

c) locating facility associated with said communication interface for receiving the current location of said remote computer and storing said current location into a directory;

wherein said communication interface receives requests from a third party computer for communication with said remote computer;

wherein said authorization facility determines whether said third party computer is authorized for communication with said remote computer; and

wherein said communication interface initiates a communication session between said remote computer and third party computer authorized for communication with said remote computer.

communication facility is responsive to said second computer for establishing a communication session with a third computer once said location of said first computer is provided to said second computer;

and wherein said computer product provides in co-operation with said private communication portal a private server at said remote computer.

26) A method of providing a private communication portal at a first computer wherein said first computer is associated with a network of computers, said method comprising

- 5 a) providing said first computer with a communication facility wherein said communication facility provides means for communicating the current location of the first computer to a server computer associated with said network;
- 10 b) providing said server computer with a locating facility for locating said first computer, wherein said locating facility is responsive to said means for communicating the current location of the first computer;
- c) storing said current location into a directory associated with said locating facility;
- 15 d) facilitating a communication session between said first computer and a third computer by means of said locating facility by authenticating said third computer for communication with said first computer and locating said first computer.